

mones, ovarian hormones, and testicular and adrenal hormones.

As in the first volume, each subdivision is written by an authority and is reviewed and commented upon by others. Methods are presented in great detail, and there are adequate bibliographies, author index and subject index.

The book is recommended to all medical libraries and to those interested in the study of disease, particularly to microbiologists, gynecologists and other endocrinologists, and to those concerned with pulmonary function.

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AETIOS OF AMIDA—The Gynaecology and Obstetrics of the Vith Century A.D. Translated by James V. Ricci, A.B., M.D. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1950.

Aetios of Amida was a wise man, for he collected all that was known of the medical treatments of his time. He knew of strange remedies and powerful magic. He must have practiced the art of healing with skill and success, for he rose to the position of court physician to the first Justinian, the greatest of the emperors of Byzantium. Aetios was more than a mere healer, he also was a great and astute recorder of the accumulated knowledge of his period. This he set down in the 16 volumes of the Tetrabiblon, which from 600 to 1600 A.D. remained one of the few great medical encyclopedias of the old world. The last volume was devoted exclusively to the treatment of women. The indefatigable Dr. Ricci considered it important enough for posterity to rescue old Aetios' recommendations for the entertainment of his colleagues, perhaps with tongue in cheek, because now as then fact and fancy so often become entangled in the practice of gynecology and obstetrics. If you do not believe it, just have a look at what old Aetios had to say about the treatment of sterility.

Book reviews come at a dime a dozen and most of them are never read by the busy doctor. But if you are one of those who prove the exception to the rule, take my word for what I have to say about Ricci's sincere effort to open the past to you, even if for no other reason than to stimulate your imagination. As far as the humble opinion of your reviewer is concerned, Ricci has succeeded admirably in doing just that with his translation of Aetios' admonitions. Like some of the other historical contributions from the pen of James V. Ricci, this book is dressed in meticulous English and embellished with a multitude of annotations and comments. The author has been fair with the original text and whenever there was more than one meaning to a statement he kept the translation as literal as possible after consulting other experts of the lingua Latina. There is nothing in this book that is of practical value to the physician of today, but the philosophical implications and deductions incidental to medical recommendations are priceless gems of pristine thinking.

Students of history, teachers and thinkers will enjoy this book. It is a storehouse of ancient thought and of some profound wisdom, but it also is an important historical document of the evolution of medical practice. There are 123 chapters in the 16th volume of the Tetrabiblon, but the translator has managed to set them down in readable English in only 120 pages. For those who like to browse through source references and extracts from the original text, Ricci supplies 100 pages of interesting annotations. Arturo Castiglione, professor of gynecology at the University of Milan, Italy, has written a fitting introduction. The Blakiston Company of Philadelphia presents the little tome to the profession in an attractive binding. The translator has used the Latin edition of Coronarius published in Basle, Switzerland, in 1542 by Froben as the original source for his latest contribution to the history of gynecology and obstetrics. Your reviewer considers "Aetios of Amida" a worthy addition to your shelf of books to be read during leisure hours.

SPEECH THERAPY FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED. By Sara Stinchfield Hawk. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, 1950. \$4.00.

This book is of special value for speech therapists and fills a gap for every physician who treats spastic children. Speech therapy has been part of the treatment given to handicapped children at the Orthopaedic Hospital in Los Angeles for several decades. The author describes procedures and results in 53 cases during an eight-year period. From the clinic of the hospital, 9 per cent of the patients had speech defects (against 2 per cent of normal school children). The other therapeutic procedures, including braces and physiotherapy, were used in coordination with speech treatment.

The book contains a wealth of exercises for relaxation, practice words and sentences, articulatory exercises and verses for speech training of spastics. The occurrence of stuttering is high among handicapped children as result of poor adjustment. Therapeutic procedures and rules of mental hygiene are well outlined.

In 49 per cent the author found pure left-handedness or mixed left and right-handedness which in her opinion accounts for inabilities in speaking, reading, spelling and writing as well as for clumsiness. The I.Q. improves, often fast, under speech training. Dental factors in spastics due to malocclusion or "side-bite" from stronger pull exerted by the facial and neck muscles on the uninjured side cause need for corrective dentistry and speech training.

An interesting chapter is added on personality measurements and vocational guidance for handicapped children. I. Q. tests are difficult to apply; verbal expression is handicapped by speech difficulties, performance tests by manual incoordination. The description of combined methods will be of great practical help.

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HANDBOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND DIAGNOSTIC GYNECOLOGY. By Leo Doyle, M.S., M.D. Illustrations by Ralph Sweet. First Edition. University Medical Publishers. P.O. 761, Palo Alto, 1950. \$2.00.

Dr. Leo Doyle's "Handbook of Obstetrics and Diagnostic Gynecology" is a concise outline of these fields of medicine. The author states that his book is neither a textbook nor a reference book; rather, the information is outlined so that it is easily and quickly available to the busy practitioner. It is planned that the handbook will undergo frequent revisions to keep pace with the inevitable changes of therapeutics. Descriptions of surgical techniques have been omitted.

The book is divided into two sections. The first section on obstetrics includes the essentials of diagnosis and treatment of normal and abnormal pregnancy. The Rh factor is presented in a manner by which the physician can readily grasp the intricacies of this puzzling problem. There is an excellent discussion of the emotional aspects of pregnancy—a facet of patient care which has had increasing emphasis in the literature in recent months. A chapter is included on minor problems of pregnancy; the vexing nausea and vomiting, hemorrhoids, constipation and others with to-the-point methods of treatment which will be welcomed by obstetricians.

The section of diagnostic gynecology is rather short and does not cover the material as thoroughly as the obstetrical section. The diagnosis of pelvic masses and infertility management are well presented.

The diagrams and illustrations throughout the book are adequate to augment the accompanying text.

There is an excellent table of normal blood chemistry and urine values and the variations occurring in pregnancy on the cover pages, which is an added bonus of this very worthwhile book. Dr. Doyle's handbook will be a welcome addition to the libraries of general practitioners who have particular interest in obstetrics and gynecology.